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What is claimed is:

- 1. A method for facilitating emergency logon, the method comprising:
- (a) providing a logon process that collects identification information and authentication information and provides access when identification information is authenticated by authentication information;
 - (b) receiving a request for emergency logon from an entity;
 - (c) collecting identification information from the entity; and
- (d) without authenticating the identification information collected from the entity, providing the entity with emergency access.
- 2. The invention of Claim 1 further comprising:
 - (e) alerting an administrator regarding the request for emergency logon.
- 3. The invention of Claim 1 further comprising:
- (e) producing an audit log that is more detailed than an audit log produced when identification information is authenticated by authentication information.
- 4. The invention of Claim 1, wherein the emergency access provided to the entity in (d) is the same as the access provided when identification information is authenticated by authentication information.
- 5. The invention of Claim 1, wherein the emergency access provided to the entity in (d) is different from the access provided when identification information is authenticated by authentication information.
- 6. The invention of Claim 5, wherein emergency access provides read-only access, and wherein access provided when identification information is authenticated by authentication information is not limited to read-only access.

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- 7. The invention of Claim 1, wherein the entity requests emergency logon by clicking on a displayed emergency logon button.
- 8. The invention of Claim 1, wherein the information collected from the entity in (c) comprises at least one character.
- 9. The invention of Claim 1, wherein the information collected from the entity in (c) comprises biometric information.
- 10. The invention of Claim 1, wherein the method for emergency logon is implemented on a computer-based medical information system.
- 11. A method for facilitating emergency logon, the method comprising:
- (a) providing a workstation comprising a logon process that collects identification information and authentication information and operates in a first operating mode when identification information is authenticated by authentication information;
 - (b) receiving a request for emergency logon from an entity;
 - (c) collecting identification information from the entity; and
- (d) without authenticating the identification information collected from the entity, operating the workstation in a second operating mode, the second operating mode being different from the first operating mode.
- 12. The invention of Claim 11, wherein, in the second operating mode, an administrator is alerted regarding the request for emergency logon.
- 13. The invention of Claim 11, wherein, in the second operating mode, an audit log is produced that is more detailed than an audit log produced in the first operating mode.

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- 14. The invention of Claim 11, wherein, in the second operating mode, read-only access is provided to data; and wherein, in the first operating mode, access to data is not limited to read-only access.
- 15. The invention of Claim 11, wherein the entity requests emergency logon by clicking on a displayed emergency logon button.
- 16. The invention of Claim 11, wherein the information collected from the entity in (c) comprises at least one character.
- 17. The invention of Claim 11, wherein the information collected from the entity in (c) comprises biometric information.
- 18. The invention of Claim 11, wherein the method for emergency logon is implemented on a computer-based medical information system.
- 19. A method for facilitating emergency logon, the method comprising:
- (a) providing a computer-based medical information system comprising a logon process that collects identification information and authentication information and provides access to medical data when identification information is authenticated by authentication information;
 - (b) displaying an emergency logon button;
 - (c) receiving a selection of the emergency logon button from an entity;
 - (d) collecting identification information from the entity;
- (e) without authenticating the identification information collected from the entity, providing the entity with read-only access to the medical data; and
 - (f) alerting an administrator regarding the request for emergency logon.

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- 20. The invention of Claim 19 further comprising:
- (g) producing an audit log that is more detailed than an audit log produced when identification information is authenticated by authentication information.
- 21. The invention of Claim 19, wherein the computer-based medical information system comprises a plurality of workstations, a local area network, a medical information database server, a domain server, and a network server.
- 22. A system having an emergency logon feature, the system comprising:
 a mechanism for collecting identification information and authentication
 information and providing access when identification information is authenticated by
 authentication information;

a mechanism for receiving a request for emergency logon from an entity;
a mechanism for collecting identification information from the entity; and
a mechanism for, without authenticating the identification information collected
from the entity, providing the entity with emergency access.

- 23. The invention of Claim 22 further comprising: a mechanism for alerting an administrator regarding the request for emergency logon.
- 24. The invention of Claim 22 further comprising:

 a mechanism for producing an audit log that is more detailed than an audit log
 produced when identification information is authenticated by authentication information.
- 25. The invention of Claim 22, wherein the emergency access provided to the entity is the same as the access provided when identification information is authenticated by authentication information.

- 26. The invention of Claim 22, wherein the emergency access provided to the entity is different from the access provided when identification information is authenticated by authentication information.
- 27. The invention of Claim 26, wherein emergency access provides read-only access, and wherein access provided when identification information is authenticated by authentication information is not limited to read-only access.
- 28. The invention of Claim 22, wherein the entity requests emergency logon by clicking on a displayed emergency logon button.
- 29. The invention of Claim 22, wherein the information collected from the entity comprises at least one character.
- 30. The invention of Claim 22, wherein the information collected from the entity comprises biometric information.
- 31. The invention of Claim 22, wherein the system comprises a computer-based medical information system.